

Research Paper: Finding, Evaluating, and Using Sources

Source Requirements

You will research and find sources to create the following products:

Annotated Bibliography: you must have between 8 – 15 sources.

Synthesis Question: you must have between 5 – 7 sources.

Research Paper: you will work from a synthesis question and use at least 4 sources.

Requirements:

Visual sources:

In the **Annotated Bibliography**, **two** sources must be classified as “**visual rhetoric**”. You will use at least **one of them in the synthesis question** you create.

In the **Annotated Bibliography**:

- One should have a majority of non-language elements (for example, Source G, Question 1, 2008) such as drawing/illustration, photography, pictures, etc.

2008 AP® ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

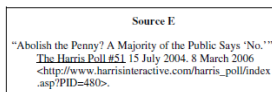


The following are scanned images of pennies.



- One should have a majority of language elements such as words, letters, or numbers (for example, Source E, Question 1, 2008)

2008 AP® ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS



The following are data from an independent poll.

FAVOR ABOLISHING THE PENNY?

"Would you favor or oppose abolishing the penny so that the nickel would be the lowest denomination coin?"

	Income					
	Total	Less than \$25,000	\$25,000-\$34,900	\$35,000-\$49,900	\$50,000-\$74,900	\$75,000 +
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Favor abolishing the penny	23	16	26	25	24	32
Oppose abolishing the penny	59	62	59	58	57	53
Not sure	18	21	15	17	20	15

The Harris Poll was conducted online within the United States between June 10 and 16, 2004 among a nationwide cross section of 2,136 adults (aged 18 and over).

Primary sources:

- In your **Annotated Bibliography**, at minimum 3 primary sources
- In your **Synthesis Question**, at minimum 2 primary sources
- In your **Research Paper**, at minimum 1 primary source

Scholarly sources:

In your **Annotated Bibliography**, you must use at least one source from a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal.

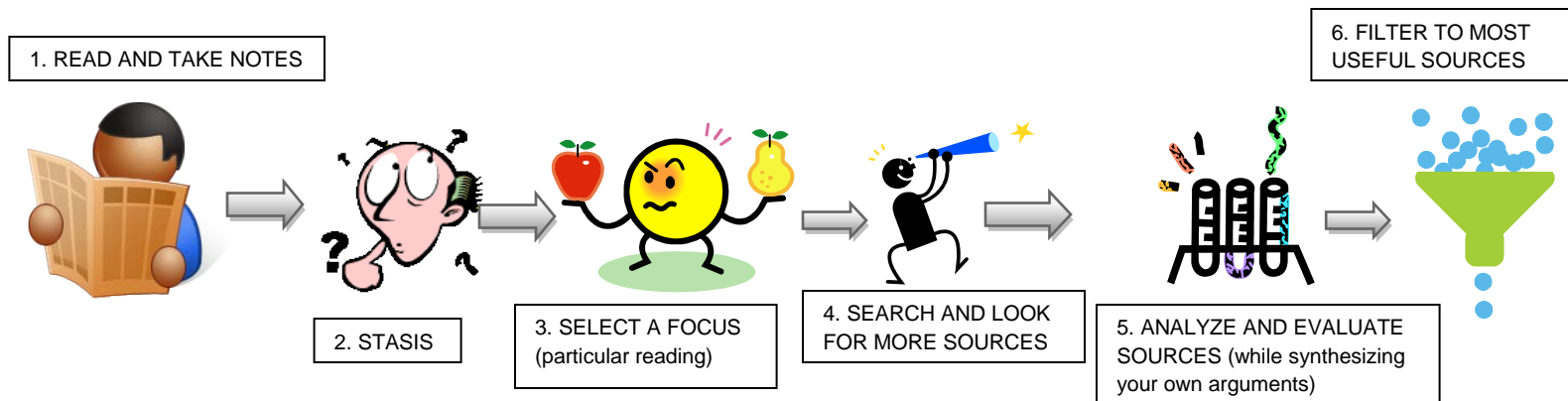
No “tertiary” sources (i.e. encyclopedias, including Wikipedia, sites that compile “about” or general information web pages)

Media

For your Annotated Bibliography, your sources may be any type of medium.

For your Synthesis Question, your sources must be confined to those that can be reproduced on 8.5” x 11” paper.

(Roughly) The Process of Topic Discovery and Looking, Using, and Evaluating Sources



Instructions for Annotated Bibliography

1. Must be in MLA format.
2. Must consist of at minimum 8 sources, maximum 15.
3. Must contain the specific source requirements (these may overlap; e.g. a source may be both a visual and a primary source): at least 2 visual sources, 4 primary sources, 1 scholarly source, no tertiary sources
4. For each source, you should include the citation as it will appear in the Works Cited. You will also include a paragraph about the source:
 - 1 – 2 sentences summarizing the source's **main argument(s)**
 - 1 – 2 sentences discussing the source's **methodology**: what mode of development does it employ? How does the source develop an argument? What is the arrangement? What techniques?
 - 1 – 2 sentences evaluating the source's **authority, reliability, limitations, and scope**
 - 1 – 2 sentences evaluating the source's **value for your research**: how it connects to issues/topics and how it could be used.
5. You should create a tentative title for your research paper and include this in the title of your Annotated Bibliography.

Advice:

Get this information for every source:

- Content: What is it about? Is it relevant to your research
- Purpose: What is it for? Why was it written/created?
- Methods used to collect data: Where did the information come from?
- Reliability: Is the information accurate? How can you verify this?
- Authority/Ethos: What expertise or authority does the author/creator have on the information?
- Currency: When was it written? Is it new? Is it of relevant currency with respect to when your source was written?
- Scope/Coverage/Limitations
- Arrangement
- Major Arguments/Points of View

Note:

- The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) requires URLs (universal resource locator; the <http://> web address) for all citations. The Modern Language Association (MLA), in the 7th edition, does not. Because you are IB students, you should include the URL at the end of each citation in < >.
- Be mindful of details: formatting, spacing, punctuation, italicization, etc.
- Remember to keep the “big picture” in mind. You are doing this not just to complete one assignment (“Annotated Bibliography”), but to construct a point of view about a topic on your own. Be creative, thoughtful, and explore many options.